

REMARKS

Claims 8-13 and 15-31 are pending in the present Application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 8-13 are allowed and that claims 16-18, 21-24, 28 and 31 have been indicated as being allowable but for their dependence on a rejected base claims.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 16, which is hereby cancelled. Claim 17 has been amended to depend from claim 15, instead of cancelled claim 16. Claim 22 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No claims have been added, leaving claims 8-13, 15, and 17-31 for consideration upon entry of the present amendment.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of at least the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15, 19, 20, 25-27, 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Hiraishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,104,450, hereinafter "Hiraishi") in view of Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,142, hereinafter "Kim") as stated on pages 2-4 of the Office action dated December 09, 2010.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter indicated with respect to claim 16. Thus, amended independent claim 15, including claims depending therefrom, i.e., claims 17-31, admittedly define over Hiraishi and Kim.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection(s) and rejection(s) and allowance of the case are respectfully requested.

Applicants hereby petition for any necessary extension of time required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) or 1.136(b) or any other necessary fees(s), which may be required for entry and consideration of the present Reply.

If there are any additional charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' Attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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